

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for endoscopically forming, approximating and securing a plurality of tissue folds within a patient, the apparatus comprising:
a device adapted to endoscopically form the plurality of tissue folds;
~~means~~ a tissue approximation system for approximating the plurality of tissue folds;
at least one anchor assembly; and
an anchor delivery system configured to endoscopically deploy the at least one anchor assembly across the plurality of tissue folds to secure the plurality of tissue folds.
2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the anchor delivery system comprises a flexible delivery catheter.
3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the flexible delivery catheter is configured to buckle into transverse alignment with at least one of the plurality of tissue folds.
4. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the anchor delivery system further comprises a needle configured for advancement through the flexible delivery catheter and for transverse passage through the plurality of tissue folds.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the anchor assembly is configured for delivery through the needle.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a tissue engaging assembly configured to engage a mucosal layer of a patient's stomach.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a tissue engaging assembly configured to engage a muscularis layer of a patient's stomach.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the devices comprises a tissue engaging assembly configured to engage a serosal layer of a patient's stomach.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of tissue folds comprise serosa-to-serosa tissue contact and the anchor assembly is adapted to secure the serosa-to-serosa tissue contact.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the device further comprises a shape-lockable guide tube.

11. (original) A method of endoscopically forming, approximating and securing a plurality of tissue folds within a patient, the method comprising:

endoscopically forming a first tissue fold; placing a first anchor across the first tissue fold;

endoscopically forming at least one additional tissue fold, thereby forming the plurality of tissue folds;

placing at least one additional anchor across the at least one additional tissue fold; approximating the plurality of tissue folds; and

securing the approximated plurality of tissue folds with the anchors.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the first tissue fold and the at least one additional tissue fold are not attached to one another.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the first tissue fold is formed from an anterior segment of the patient's stomach and at least one additional tissue fold is formed from a posterior segment of the patient's stomach opposite the anterior segment.

14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the first tissue fold and the at least one additional tissue fold are disposed inferior to a patient's gastroesophageal junction.

15. (original) A method of performing gastric reduction procedure comprising:
endoscopically forming, approximating and securing a first plurality of tissue folds in a first plane within a patient's stomach; and

endoscopically forming, approximating and securing at least one additional plurality of tissue folds in at least one additional plane within the patient's stomach.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the first plane and the at least one additional plane are substantially parallel to one another.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the first plurality of tissue folds and the at least one additional plurality of tissue folds are not attached to one another.

18. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the first plurality of tissue folds and the at least one additional plurality of tissue folds each comprise at least one tissue fold from an anterior segment of the patient's stomach and at least one tissue fold from an opposing posterior segment of the patient's stomach.

19. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the first plurality of tissue folds and the at least one additional plurality of tissue folds are disposed inferior to the patient's gastroesophageal junction.

20. (new) A system for endoscopically forming a tissue fold within a hollow body organ, comprising:

an endoscopic device having a proximal end, a distal end, and an elongate length therebetween;

a tissue engaging mechanism adapted to project from the distal end of the endoscopic device and engage tissue within the hollow body organ; and

an anchor delivery system positionable adjacent to the tissue engaging mechanism within the hollow body organ and adapted to endoscopically deploy an anchor assembly across the engaged tissue.

21. (new) The system of claim 20 further comprising an articulatable imaging device adapted to project from the distal end of the endoscopic device and articulate off-axis relative to the endoscopic device.

22. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein the imaging device comprises a gastroscope.

23. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein the imaging device is further adapted to enable visual triangulation when articulated off-axis.

24. (new) The system of claim 20 wherein the length of the endoscopic device is comprised of a shape-lockable tubular member adapted to lock a configuration within the hollow body organ.

25. (new) The system of claim 20 wherein the endoscopic device defines a plurality of working lumens therethrough.

26. (new) The system of claim 20 wherein the tissue engaging mechanism comprises a tissue grasper.

27. (new) The system of claim 20 wherein the tissue engaging mechanism is adapted to engage the tissue and manipulate the tissue proximally relative to the endoscopic device.

28. (new) The system of claim 20 wherein the anchor delivery system comprises a flexible delivery tube.

29. (new) The system of claim 28 wherein a portion of the flexible delivery tube is adapted to reconfigure into transverse alignment with the engaged tissue.

30. (new) The system of claim 28 wherein the anchor delivery system further comprises a needle adapted to be advanced through the flexible delivery tube and for transverse passage through the engaged tissue.

31. (new) The system of claim 30 wherein the anchor delivery system is adapted for delivery through the needle.